

Message Text

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TAGS: OREP (ALBERT, CARL), RO, PFOR

SUBJ: CODEL ALBERT: WRAP-UP

1. SUMMARY. GENERAL THEME OF CODEL ALBERT DISCUSSIONS DURING AUGUST 15-19 VISIT TO ROMANIA CENTERED ON HOW TO ESTABLISH A MORE COOPERATIVE AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN LIGHT OF NEW IMPETUS PROVIDED BY MFN APPROVAL. ROMANIANS SOUGHT RECOGNITION OF THEIR LDC STATUS, AS WELL AS GSP AND CONCESSIONAL CREDITS. IN TURN CODEL MEMBERS WERE APPRECIATIVE OF ROMANIAN RESPONSIVENESS ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUES, BUT, WITH EXCEPTION OF GSP, GAVE NIGOR LITTLE REASON TO HOPE FOR POSITIVE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT LOANS AT CONCESSIONAL INTEREST RATES. SPEAKER ALBERT INVITED GNA PRESIDENT GIOSAN TO HEAD AN OFFICIAL ROMANIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO U.S. IN 1977. END SUMMARY.

2. CODEL ALBERT VISIT INVLUDED STOPS ON BLACK SEA AND IN BUCHAREST AND BRASOV, AS WELL AS MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT AND MRS. CEAUSESCU, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PATAN, GNA
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PRESIDENT GIOSAN AND BRASOV FIRST SECRETARY TROFIN. DURING

MEETINGS BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH MFN PASSAGE AND TOUCHED ON POSSIBILITIES FOR EXPANDED COOPERATION IN SUCH FIELDS AS PETROLEUM EXPLORATION AND AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE, AMONG OTHERS. CODEL EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR ROMANIAN RESPONSIVENESS ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUES, BUT ALSO SERVED NOTICE THAT SUCH ACTION SHOULD CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE, IF THE ROMANIAN-US RELATIONSHIP WAS TO PROSPER.

3. CEAUSESCU MEETING FEATURED EXPOSITION OF STANDARD ROMANIAN POSITIONS ON DISARMAMENT, CSCE AND MIDDLE EAST, WHILE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PATAN MADE EXPECTED PITCH FOR LDC STATUS, GENERAL SPECIALIZED PREFERENCES (GSP) AND CCC CREDITS. HOWEVER, ASIDE FROM REPRESENTATIVE GREEN'S OPTIMISTIC PROGNOSIS FOR GSP, CODEL MEMBERS (BEVILL, FOLEY, FENWICK) HELD OUT LITTLE HOPE FOR POSITIVE CONGRESSIONAL RESPONSE TO ANY GOR REQUEST FOR CONCESSIONAL CREDITS OR LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, GIVEN PRESENT NEGATIVE CLIMATE OF OPINION ON SUCH MATTERS IN U.S.

4. GNA PRESIDENT GIOSAN PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF US-ROMANIAN PARLIMENTARY "FRIENDSHIP GROUPS", I.E., THE DESIGNATION OF A NUMBER OF DEPUTIES OR REPRESENTATIVES WHO WOULD THEORETICALLY FOLLOW US-ROMANIAN DEVELOPMENTS WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION. (COMMENT: ROMANIANS ALREADY HAVE SUCH GROUPINGS WITH SEVERAL WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES). IN RETURN SPEAKER ALBERT INVITED GIOSAN TO LEAD A PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO THE U.S. IN 1977. HE ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DIALOGUE ON TOPICAL ISSUES INVOLVING PARLIAMENTARIANS OF BOTH COUNTRIES.

5. CODEL MEETING WITH BRASOV FIRST SECRETARY TROFIN, ALTHOUGH SHORT, WAS NOTABLE FOR TROFIN'S CANDID DISCUSSION OF SOME OF UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS OF ROMANIA'S SOCIALIST SOCIETY, I.E., LACK OF SUFFICIENT HOUSING, POOR SERVICE, NON-AVAILABILITY OF MASS-PRODUCED QUALITY ITEMS FOR GENERAL POPULACE, AS WELL AS HIS SOMETIMES CRITICAL REMARKS DIRECTED AT CENTRAL BODIES. IT WAS AN IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE AND ACKNOWLEDGED AS SUCH BY THOSE CODEL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE.

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6. COMMENT: ROMANIANS OBVIOUSLY WELCOMED OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW OFF THEIR UNIQUE BLEND OF NATIONALISM, INDEPENDENCE AND DOMMUNISM TO SUCH A LARGE AND VARIED DELEGATION, AND, US USUAL, THEY MADE THE MOST OF IT. AT SAME TIME CODEL'S FRANK DISCUSSION OF LIMITED U.S. ABILITY TO RESPOND TO MANY OF ROMANIA'S REQUESTS FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND THEIR HIGHLIGHTING IMPORTANCE OF HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS WAS MOST HELPFUL IN ALERTING GOR TO PRESENT DAY REALITIES

IN WASHINGTON.

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